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Fifty-seventh session
Item 114 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Cooperation between headquarters departments and regional commissions

Note of the Secretary-General**

1. In paragraph 69 of its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to further enhance cooperation between relevant headquarters departments and regional commissions in order to ensure the quality of output and services to Member States and address the duplication and overlap of services, where they exist, and to improve the efficiency of programme support activities, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

2. In this regard, the attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council of 6 May 2002 on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2002/15), which addresses the issue of cooperation between headquarters departments and regional commissions.

3. As regards the broader issue of further enhancing cooperation in order to ensure the quality of outputs and services and to address the duplication and overlap of services and to improve efficiency, this would be addressed in the report of the Secretary-General on reform proposals on the continued process of strengthening the United Nations, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

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* A/57/150.

** The delayed submission of the present note is due to the extensive consultations required to finalize the document.

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Plan to increase the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The General Assembly, by resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, welcomed the commitment of the Secretary-General to increase gradually the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, with a view to easing the administrative costs levied on the substantive programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (formerly United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)), and requested him to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on his plan for the upcoming bienniums. The present report, prepared in response to that request, reflects efforts made in the bienniums 1998-1999, 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 to strengthen the Office and indicates an intention to further strengthen the regular budget component for the Office in the next biennium, subject to availability of the required resources.

* A/57/150.

** The report was delayed to allow for the completion of consultation with the United Nations Office at Nairobi on the issue.

02-55210 (E) 120902

I. Background

1. The United Nations Office at Nairobi was established effective 1 January 1996 as a successor to the two separate administrations of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (formerly United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)), as well as the United Nations Common Services Unit at Nairobi. The objective in establishing the Office was to strengthen the United Nations presence in Nairobi and to achieve economies of scale.

2. Initially, the Office consisted of one division, the Division of Administrative Services, which included services related to human resources management, finance, general support services, information technology, security and conference services. Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/1999/20 of 23 December 1999 detailed the organizational structure of the Office as consisting of the Office of the Director-General, the Division of Administrative Services and the United Nations Information Centre. In September 2000, the section for conference services (previously part of the Division of Administrative Services) was established as a separate division.

3. Currently, the Division of Administrative Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi is responsible for providing UNEP and UN-Habitat with a full range of administrative and other support services. The Division also provides some support services to other organizations of the United Nations system located in the United Nations complex at Nairobi and manages United Nations facilities at Nairobi. The responsibilities of the Division of Administrative Services are set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin on the Organization of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (ST/SGB/2000/13).

4. In the programme budget proposals for 1998-1999, 2000-2001 and 2002-2003, significant efforts have been made to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi by adding regular budgetary resources. This is illustrated by the following table which compares the real growth proposed for the Office with that proposed for the regular budget as a whole:

Biennium	*Regular budget as a whole (percentage)*	*United Nations Office at Nairobi (percentage)*
1998-1999	(4.8)	2.5
2000-2001	0.2	15.2
2002-2003	(0.5)	9.7

5. Further proposals will be submitted to strengthen the Office in future bienniums, beginning with those to be developed for the biennium 2004-2005. In this regard, reference is made to paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/57/85), which mentions that resources are foreseen to strengthen, inter alia, the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Specific budgetary proposals consistent with the proposals contained in that report will be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, subject to its approval of the necessary level of resources at its fifty-seventh session. In the course of developing detailed budget proposals, due regard will be paid to the requirements of Assembly resolution 56/253.

6. **The General Assembly may wish to note this report and endorse the approach proposed.**